

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 189216
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

JCRC BARBERS POINT HI

CINCPAC HONO HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189216

EXDIS -- MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, CASC, VN

SUBJECT: LETTER FOR SRV OFFICIAL

REF: BANGKOK 20577

1. APPRECIATE REFTEL REPORT ON ANTIPPAS' MEETING WITH VU
HOANG.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 189216

2. TO HELP ESTABLISH BANGKOK AS LOCALE FOR EXCHANGE OF
INFORMATION ON MIA'S AND CONSULAR MATTERS, WE SUGGEST
ANTIPPAS GIVE FOLLOWING LETTER (FRENCH TEXT PROVIDED) TO
APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL IN SRV EMBASSY FOR TRANSMITTAL FROM
SIEVERTS TO VU HOANG.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

MR. VU HOANG
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE S.R.V.N. OFFICE
IN CHARGE OF SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT
PERSONNEL MISSING IN THE WAR, AND
DIRECTOR OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HANOI, VIETNAM

DEAR MR. VU HOANG:

I WAS GLAD TO HEAR FROM MR. ANTIPPAS THAT YOU HAD A
SAFE JOURNEY TO BANGKOK, AND I HOPE YOUR RETURN HOME ALSO
WENT WELL. I BELIEVE WE HAD A GOOD MEETING IN HONOLULU,
AND I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR EXCHANGES, BY LETTER
AND IN PERSON. I AM SENDING THIS MESSAGE THROUGH OUR
EMBASSIES IN BANGKOK, AND WOULD BE GLAD TO COMMUNICATE
WITH YOU IN THIS WAY.

I WANT TO GIVE YOU A REPORT ON MY MEETING WITH THE
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF THE MISSING IN ACTION, IN
SAN DIEGO JULY 15, THE DAY AFTER WE PARTED. I DESCRIBED
OUR MEETINGS IN HONOLULU AND TOLD THE FAMILIES WE HAD HAD
USEFUL DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING MIA INFORMATION AND THE
RETURN OF REMAINS. I SAID THAT YOUR DELEGATION HAD BEEN
ABLE TO OBSERVE AT FIRST HAND THE WORK OF THE CENTRAL
IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY (CIL) AND THE JOINT CASUALTY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 189216

RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC). I SAID WE LOOKED FORWARD TO
CONTINUING OUR EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT. I ALSO SAID I
HAD ASKED YOU AGAIN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT AMERICANS
WERE STILL HELD AS PRISONERS IN VIETNAM, AND THAT YOU HAD
RECONFIRMED MR. PHAN HIEN'S STATEMENT TO RICHARD HOLBROOKE
AND TO THE WOODCOCK COMMISSION THAT NO AMERICANS WERE HELD
AS PRISONERS IN VIETNAM, AND THAT ALL POW'S HAD BEEN RE-
TURNED FOLLOWING THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

AFTER I HAD FINISHED SPEAKING, THE LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
CONDUCTED A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH A PERSON WHO HAD
LEFT VIETNAM IN 1978 DECLARED THAT HE HAD SEEN "49 AMERI-
CANS" HELD AS PRISONERS IN HO-CHI-MINHVILLE, TAY NINH, AND
AT OTHER LOCATIONS, DURING THE PERIOD 1975-77. ALTHOUGH
HE PROVIDED NO FACTUAL EVIDENCE FOR THIS STORY, IT WAS
REPORTED IN THE PRESS AND NEWS SERVICES ON JULY 16. THIS
HAD THE UNFORTUNATE EFFECT OF RAISING HOPES AMONG THE
FAMILIES THAT SOME AMERICAN PRISONERS MAY SURVIVE. I TOLD
THE FAMILIES WE DO NOT REGARD THE STORY AS CREDIBLE. HOW-
EVER, ANY COMMENT YOU COULD PROVIDE FOR ME ON THIS REPORT,
OR ON THE REPORTS I GAVE YOU IN HONOLULU, WOULD BE HELPFUL
TO ME IN EXPLAINING THIS TO THE FAMILIES.

PLEASE GIVE MY REGARDS TO YOUR COLLEAGUES WHO WERE
WITH US IN HONOLULU. I AM PLEASED TO SEND YOU THE GOOD
WISHES OF FREDERICK BROWN AND OTHER COLLEAGUES, INCLUDING
OUR INTERPRETER, MR. ALEC TOUMAYAN. WE LOOK FORWARD TO
THE POSSIBILITY OF SEEING YOU AGAIN SOON.

SINCERELY,

FRANK A. SIEVERTS
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN
AFFAIRS

FOLLOWING IS FRENCH TEXT OF MESSAGE TO VU HOANG.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 189216

MONSIEUR VU HOANG, REPRESENTANT DU BUREAU DE LA R.S.V.N.
CHARGE DE L'OBTENTION DE RENSEIGNEMENTS SUR LE
PERSONNEL DISPARU ET
DIRECTEUR DES AFFAIRES CONSULAIRES
MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
HANOI

CHER MONSIEUR,

J'AI ETE HEUREUX D'APPRENDRE PAR M. ANTIPPAS QUE
VOTRE VOYAGE A BANGKOK S'EST BIEN PASSE ET J'ESPERE QUE
VOUS ETES RENTRE CHEZ VOUS SANS ENCOMBRE. JE SUIS
CONVAINCU QUE L'ENTRETIEN QUE NOUS AVONS EU A HONOLULU A
ETE FRUCTUEUX ET J'ENVISAGE AVEC PLAISIR LA CONTINUATION
DE NOS ECHANGES, PAR LETTRE ET EN PERSONNE. J'ADRESSE CE
TELEGRAMME PAR L'INTERMEDIAIRE DE NOS AMBASSADES A BANGKOK
ET J'AIMERAIS QUE NOS COMMUNICATIONS S'EFFECTUENT PAR LES
MEMES VOIES.

JE VOUDRAIS VOUS FAIRE PART DE L'ENTRETIEN QUE J'AI
EU LE 15 JUILLET, A SAN DIEGO, LE JOUR APRES VOUS AVOIR
QUITTE, AVEC LA LIGUE NATIONALE DES FAMILLES DE DISPARUS.
J'AI EXPLIQUE LES ENTRETIENS QUE NOUS AVONS EUS A
HONOLULU ET AI FAIT PART AUX FAMILLES DES CONVERSATIONS
UTILES QUE NOUS AVONS EUES EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES
AMERICAINS DISPARUS ET LE RETOUR DES DEPOUILLES. J'AI
SIGNALÉ QU'IL A ETE POSSIBLE A VOTRE DELEGATION D'OBSERVER
PAR ELLE-MEME LES TRAVAUX DU CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION
LABORATORY (CIL) ET DU JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER
(JCRC), QUE NOUS ENVISAGIONS DE POURSUIVRE NOS ECHANGES
A CE SUJET ET QUE JE VOUS AVAIS RENOUVELE MA DEMANDE SUR
LA POSSIBILITE DE LA PRESENCE D'AMERICAINS EN CAPTIVITE
AU VIET NAM. J'AI FAIT SAVOIR QUE VOUS AVIEZ CONFIRME
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 189216

A NOUVEAU LA DECLARATION DE M. PHAN HIEN, A M. RICHARD HOLBROOKE ET A LA COMMISSION WOODCOCK, SELON LAQUELLE TOUS LES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE AVAIENT ETE RAPATRIES A LA SUITE DE L'ACCORD DE PARIS.

APRES LA REUNION, LA LIGUE DES FAMILLES A TENU UNE CONFERENCE DE PRESSE AU COURS DE LAQUELLE UNE PERSONNE, QUI AVAIT QUITTE LE VIET NAM EN 1978, A DECLARE QU'ELLE AVAIT VU, ENTRE 1975 ET 1977, "49 AMERICAINS" EN CAPTIVITE A HO-CHI-MINHVILLE, A TAY NINH ET EN D'AUTRES ENDROITS. BIEN QUE CETTE PERSONNE N'AIT PRODUIT AUCUNE PREUVE POSITIVE DE CES FAITS, ILS ONT ETE RAPPORTES LE 16 JUILLET PAR LA PRESSE ET LES SERVICES D'INFORMATION. CECI A EU POUR EFFET REGRETTABLE DE DONNER AUX FAMILLES

L'ESPOIR QUE CERTAINS PRISONNIERS AMERICAINS SONT ENCORE VIVANTS. J'AI FAIT OBSERVER AUX FAMILLES QUE NOUS CONSIDERIONS CETTE DECLARATION COMME INVRAISEMBLABLE. NEANMOINS, TOUT COMMENTAIRE QUE VOUS POURRIEZ M'APPORTER A CE SUJET OU SUR LES RAPPORTS QUE JE VOUS AI DONNES A HONOLULU M'AIDERAIT A DONNER DES EXPLICATIONS AUX FAMILLES INTERESSEES.

VEUILLEZ ME RAPPELER AU BON SOUVENIR DE VOS COLLABORATEURS. JE SUIS HEUREUX DE VOUS TRANSMETTRE LES AMITIES DE FREDERICK BROWN, DES AUTRES COLLABORATEURS ET DE M. ALEC TOUMAYAN, NOTRE INTERPRETE. NOUS ENVISAGEONS AVEC PLAISIR LA POSSIBILITE DE VOUS RENCONTRER A NOUVEAU DANS UN PROCHE AVENIR.

VEUILLEZ AGREER, CHER MONSIEUR, L'ASSURANCE DE MES SENTIMENTS DISTINGUES.

- - FRANK A. SIEVERTS

- - SOUS-SECRETAIRE D'ETAT ADJOINT

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PAGE 06 STATE 189216

- - POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET
- - LES AFFAIRES HUMANITAIRES

END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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